

Coming Soon!!! Governor's Task Force on the Economic Status of Kentucky's Women

In the coming months, Governor Patton will appoint a Governor's Task Force on the Economic Status of Kentucky's Women, a project of the Kentucky Commission on Women. This will be an important opportunity for Kentucky citizens to become involved in efforts to raise the standard of living of Kentucky women and their families. The purpose of the Task Force will be to examine the issues that are obstacles to the economic progress of Kentucky women, identify solutions, and develop a plan of action. First Lady Judi Patton has agreed to serve as Co-Chair of the Task Force.

Key to the success of the Task Force will be work groups who will collect available data appropriate to their working topic; explore existing resources and determine "best practice" models; and compile and draft reports for presentation

to the Task Force. The work groups will begin their work after the appointment of the Task Force and will focus on the following tentative obstacle areas:

- • • • •
- 1. Education and Leadership
- 2. Economic Development and Employment
- 3. Women in Positions of Power
- 4. Social and Cultural Barriers
- 5. State Government Employees
- • • • •

These groups will meet monthly in Frankfort, for a period of 12 months. Kentucky citizens from all regions of the state are encouraged to join these work groups. To learn how you can be a part of this important project, please contact Ann Ferrell at the Kentucky Commission on Women at (502) 564-6643 or ann.ferrell@mail.state.ky.us.

Project Goals

1. To foster an inclusive initiative that will rely on the participation and engagement of Kentuckians to improve the quality of life for women and their families;
2. To support Governor Patton's mission to "Set Kentucky on the path to achieving economic opportunity and a standard of living above the national average in 20 years";
3. To examine the economic status of Kentucky women, including existing obstacles to progress and available resources;
4. To educate the public about these findings;
5. To offer solutions to obstacles; and
6. To provide a plan of action.

Current Facts on the Economic Status of Kentucky Women

- The median annual income for female-headed families in Kentucky is \$10,700.
- In 1995 16.9% of women in Kentucky lived below the official poverty level.
- Kentucky ranks in the bottom third in the nation in the following categories:
 - Percent of college educated women
 - Women's business ownership
 - Percent of women above poverty level

The Status of Women in Kentucky, Institute for Women's Policy Research, 1998 and the Status of Women in the States, Institute for Women's Policy Research, 2000.

- 87.9 % of adult recipients of KY Transitional Assistance Program (K-TAP) are women.
- Two thirds of single-mother families with children under the age of six live in poverty.

The Future Well-Being of Women in Kentucky, Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center, 1999, based on US Bureau of the Census figures, 1990.

"I am so excited to co-chair this Task Force. It is yet another step toward improving life for Kentucky's women. Raising the standard of living of all Kentuckians has been one of mine and Paul's highest priorities throughout our administration. The Task Force will focus on what is needed to elevate the economic status of women in the Commonwealth."

- First Lady Judi Patton

Message from the Executive Director...



I was privileged to represent the Kentucky Commission on Women at the National Association of Commissions for Women's (NACW) 32nd Annual Convention in Washington, DC this summer.

Over three hundred representatives of thirty-nine Women's Commissions came together to discuss issues of equality and justice for women in American and around the world.

The Kentucky Commission on Women, (KCW) one of the oldest commissions in the country, received recognition for the variety of programs and services provided to Kentucky citizens over the past year, including the release of the Women in Kentucky-Our Legacy, Our Future project, the Take Your Voice to Frankfort Town Meetings, the upgrade and expansion of our website and the creation of a statewide distribution list to connect women, programs, and information on a daily basis.

NACW passed several resolutions related to issues of national importance to women on behalf of its membership. Among those resolutions passed were the following:

1. **Contraceptive Coverage Resolution**

NACW will advocate for federal legislation to mandate that federally governed, self-insured healthcare plans cover contraceptives and reproductive healthcare exams.

2. **Women and Technology**

NACW will work to promote the advancement of women in technology and increased female representation in the field, due to the opportunities technological careers present to the advancement of women's economic and personal well being.

3. **In Support of U.S. Surgeon General's Blueprint of Breast-feeding**

NACW will advocate for city, county, state and federal policies that support breast-feeding mothers through personnel policies, ensuring that the rights of women in the workplace be protected.

4. **In Support of a "Full-Time Parent's Bill"**

NACW will advocate and encourage Congress to enact a "Full-Time Parent's Bill" to help women and men who forgo a career with compensation, to work instead as full-time parents and to provide social security credit for years of service as a full-time parent.

KCW will continue to monitor the activities of NACW and pass along any programs or activities that may be of interest. You can visit NACW's web site at <http://www.nacw.org/>.

Faces&Facts



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**WE HAVE MOVED AGAIN!!! Please make note of the new
address for the Kentucky Commission on Women.**

KCW Prepares to Move- Again!

That's right, less than a year after our move from Shelby Street to our current location on Ann Street, the Commission is moving again.

This past spring we learned that the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, with whom we share the building at 404 Ann Street, needed to expand their staff and would need to take occupancy of the whole building.

Now, thanks to the efforts of First Lady Judi Patton, Secretary Crit Luallen, and Finance Secretary Kevin Flannery, we have located a charming building at 312 W. Main Street in downtown Frankfort. Recently restored, this circa 1860s, two-story building has 18 foot ceilings, hardwood floors, five fire places and ample office, meeting and conference

space.

Moving plans are in the process for mid to late September and while our mailing address will change again, our phone, fax, email, and website information will remain the same.

We also want to extend our thanks to the Division of Real Properties who worked overtime to help us find the right fit for the Commission.

Call to Fill Position for Portrait Artist for Kentucky Women Remembered Watercolor Exhibit

The Kentucky Commission on Women (KCW) extends an invitation to all Kentucky watercolor portrait artists to apply for the position of Portrait Artist for the Kentucky Women Remembered

Watercolor exhibit, coordinated by a committee of the Kentucky Commission on Women. The artist selected will depict a portrait or portraits of the Kentucky women being inducted into the Kentucky Women Remembered permanent exhibit.

The selected artist will be notified by October 15, 2001. The artist will have the portrait material available on November 15, 2001 for completion by February 1, 2002. The artist's portrait(s) will be unveiled at the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort during a press conference in March 2002 with Governor Paul E. Patton and First Lady Judi Patton. The portrait(s) will then be placed on permanent exhibit in the Capitol's Northwest Wing hall. For more information or to obtain an application packet, contact Nicole at (502) 564-6643 or nicole.morgan@mail.state.ky.us

Upcoming Events

September 11 - 12, 2001: Kids Are Worth It! Conference- annual child abuse prevention and intervention conference. For more information visit www.state.ky.us/agencies/gov/domviol/toc.htm

September 15 - 16, 2001: American Association of University Women, Kentucky State Convention, Greenbo State Park. For more information, please contact Annabel Girard at cgirard@mis.net.

September 19 - 21, 2001: Maternal and Child Health Conference: What Gets Measured Gets Accomplished, coordinated by CHS/Public Health, Galt House, Louisville, KY. For more information email Lorie Chesnut at lorie.chesnut@mail.state.ky.us

September 27 thru 29, 2001: Kentucky Folklife Festival, Downtown Frankfort, KY.

September 28, 2001: Speaking of Women's Health- A Day of Learning and Luxury, coordinated by Norton Women's Pavilion, Kentucky International Convention Center, Louisville, KY. For more information visit www.nortonhealthcare.com.

October 1, 2001: Artist application deadline for the Kentucky Women Remembered Watercolor Exhibit. For a copy of the artist application, please visit <http://women.state.ky.us> or call Nicole at (502) 564-6643.

October 4, 2001: Kentucky Tobacco Summit, Hurstbourne Hotel, Louisville, KY. For more information email Beth Thomas at beth.thomas@mail.state.ky.us

October 8, 2001: Nominations for the 2002 Kentucky Women Remembered Exhibit deadline. For a copy of the nomination form, please visit <http://women.state.ky.us> or call Nicole at (502) 564-6643.

October 8 - 9, 2001: Women's Health in Kentucky: Challenges and Opportunities, Louisville Convention Center, Louisville, KY. For more information visit www.mc.uky.edu/whc/

October 21, 24, 28, 2001: United Nations Association of the USA, Kentucky Division, film festival in celebration of United Nations Day, Lexington and Louisville, KY. Call or visit KCW on the Web for details.

October 25 thru 27, 2001: The Women of Appalachia: Their Heritage and Accomplishments, Ohio University, Zanesville, OH. For more information visit www.zanesville.ohiou.edu/ce/wac/appalwomen.htm

October 26, 2001: Children and Families 2001: Bridging Research and Practice, University of Kentucky, UK Student Center, Lexington, KY. For more information call (859) 257-4363 or (859) 257-7750. Visit their website at www.uky.edu/HES/family/conference/

November 1 thru 3, 2001: Kentucky Women in Agriculture Conference: Taproots Leadership Development Seminar, Executive Inn, Owensboro, KY. For more information visit www.uky.edu/Agriculture/AgriculturalEconomics/agwomen.html

November 11, 2001: Louisville Girls' Conference, Jewish Community Center, Louisville, KY. For more information or to register call Amy Skretny Fowler at (502) 327-6089 or email at absf09@aol.com.

November 14, 2001: Meeting of the Governor's Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

November 14 thru 16, 2001: Governor's Conference on Aging- Living Today, Planning for Tomorrow, Galt House, Louisville, KY. For more information call (502) 564-6930.

November 15 - 16, 2001: Governor's Housing Conference, The Hurstbourne Hotel--Louisville Conference Center, Louisville, KY. For general information contact Tracy Stengel at (502) 564-7630, ext. 383. For conference registration contact Helen Morrow at ext. 349.

November 28, 2001: Equity and Change- Guest speaker Winona LaDuke, Northern Kentucky University, BEP 200, Highland Heights, KY, 10:00a.m. - 10:50a.m. and 7:00pm - 8:00p.m. For more information, visit NKU's Women Studies website at www.nku.edu/~wms/events.html

December 4 thru 6, 2001: 3rd Annual Ending Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Conference: The Missing Peace, Marriott's Griffin Gate Resort, Lexington, KY. For additional information contact the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs at www.kasap.org/ or call (502) 226-2704 or the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association at www.kdva.org/ or call (502) 695-2444.

Taking YOUR Voice to Frankfort



Participants reviewed challenges and resources for women in the Southeast region at the KCW Town Meeting, Hazard Community College.

From April 30 through May 24 the Kentucky Commission on Women held Town Meetings in eight regions of the state. The meetings were held in Hazard, Somerset, Bowling Green, Madisonville, Florence, Lexington, Louisville, and Ashland.

We are happy to report rooms full of knowledgeable, energetic women in all of our meetings! We sincerely thank the nearly 200 people who took the time to talk with us about the resources and challenges that exist in their communities. Participants from 35 counties took part in these meetings, and we received written comments from women who were not able to attend. The purpose of these meetings was to *listen* to the women of Kentucky so that we can better advise all branches of Kentucky government and the private sector about how their decisions impact the lives of Kentucky women. At the same time, we wanted to strengthen our relationships with women in all regions of the state so that KCW can truly be the advocate in Frankfort for Kentucky women.

During these meetings, we asked participants to work in groups to create lists of resources and challenges for women in their regions, particularly those that impact the improvement of their standard of living. After reporting their lists back to the full group, the participants prioritized the resources and challenges and brainstormed solutions to the top challenges.

Special thanks to the Kentucky Commission on Women board members for their hard work organizing the meetings in their regions. Thanks as well to the many sponsors who helped to make these meetings possible, and local media outlets who helped to publicize the events far and wide.

A report of these meetings will be released in the coming weeks and will serve as the starting point for the Governor's Task Force on the Economic Status of Kentucky's Women, which will be appointed by Governor Patton this fall (see front page story). **For a copy of this report, please contact the Kentucky Commission on Women.**



Participants discuss the resources for women in the Western region, KCW Town Meeting, Madisonville Chamber of Commerce.

Town Meeting Sponsors

Hazard

Mr. C. Vernon Cooper Jr.
WYMT

Pikeville College

Somerset

American Association of University Women-Kentucky

Steve Obermann, Edward D. Jones,
Middlesboro, KY

Hall Land & Mining Co., Harlan, KY

Bowling Green

Bowling Green Woman's Club

Bowling Green Junior Woman's Club

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Bowling Green and
Ft. Knox Alumnae Chapters

Wilson & Muir Bank & Trust Company

Madisonville

Mayor Karen Cunningham's Office

The Country Cupboard

Madisonville Chamber of Commerce

Florence

The Point Restaurant, Covington

Lexington

Cross Keys YWCA

League of Women Voters

Lexington Bluegrass Business and Professional
Women's Club

Communications Workers of America Local
3372

Center for Women, Children and Families

Louisville

Kroger

Girls Scouts

Ashland

American Electric Power

Ashland Alliance

Now Accepting Nominations

For 2002 Additions to the Kentucky Women Remembered Watercolor Exhibit

The Kentucky Commission on Women is now accepting year 2002 nominations for the Kentucky Women Remembered Watercolor Exhibit.

Nominees should reflect the outstanding or significant contributions that women have made or are continuing to make to Kentucky through their work or life accomplishments.

Those selected by a panel of Commission members will be honored by having their portrait permanently exhibited in the State Capitol. The unveiling of these new portraits will take place in the Capitol Rotunda during Women's History Month in March 2002. The deadline for submission is October 8, 2001. Help us to recognize other outstanding women in Kentucky. Nominate a woman from your area. For more information or to obtain a nomination form visit <http://women.state.ky.us> or contact Nicole at (502) 564-6643 or nicole.morgan@mail.state.ky.us

UPDATE! KCW Intern Program



KCW Interns, Sara Sahni and Jamie Meece, spent an afternoon organizing KCW files, taking many breaks to read about the issues that KCW has worked on over the years.

The Kentucky Commission on Women has benefited from the hard work of interns in recent months. During the spring and summer semesters four interns have worked on various KCW projects, furthering our mission to improve the status of Kentucky women.

Chastity Beyl, Brandeis School of Law. Last spring Chastity, a third year law student, researched the status of incarcerated women in Kentucky, and found that Kentucky needs to focus on four basic issues concerning its female prison population: sexual assault by male guards of female prisoners; pregnancy and motherhood; substance abuse and treatment; and health care.

Christina Bailey, Kentucky State University. Christina, a Computer Science major, spent the spring semester with KCW's database! She created a newer, user-friendly database system for the KCW mailing list. KCW will now be able to send mailings to Kentuckians in a targeted region of the state or with a specific interest.

Sara Sahni, University of Kentucky. Sara spent her spring semester interning with KCW, and enjoyed it so much she will be back in the fall! Sara, a Women's Studies minor at UK, assisted KCW in the general operations of the office, organized years worth of files after our recent move, and attended our board retreat and board meetings. Sara had this to say about her internship, "Working as an intern with the Kentucky Commission on Women is an empowering experience, for the Commission provides the re-

sources and knowledge for me to actively work for gender equity locally and globally. The staff inspires, influences, and encourages my commitment to social justice and to raising consciousness." The staff can't wait until Sara comes back in the fall, when she will assist with the Governor's Task Force on the Economic Status of Kentucky's Women.

Jamie Meece, Centre College. Jamie, who is majoring in English and History, has joined KCW for the summer, and is assisting the staff with a broad range of agency activities and projects, allowing her to gain a working knowledge of our mission and activities. Aside from answering phones and attending meetings, Jamie has cataloged the KCW library and assisted KCW staff with a coalition project concerning women in the fields of science, math, engineering, and technology.

The Kentucky Commission on Women is seeking interns on an ongoing basis to work on various projects related to our mission of improving the status of women in Kentucky. Please contact Ann Ferrell to learn more about internship opportunities with the Kentucky Commission on Women: 502-564-6643, ann.ferrell@mail.state.ky.us.

Hold the date!!

The Kentucky Commission on Women and the Kentucky Historical Society are collaborating on a two-day symposium devoted to **Women and Politics and Government in Kentucky**. The symposium is scheduled for **April 26-27, 2002** at the History Center in Frankfort. The purpose of the symposium will be to utilize a historical perspective to inform women about how to become more involved in both public service and the political process. Panels and workshops will feature women who have served, or are currently serving, in elected and appointed positions in Kentucky and the nation. Renowned women's historian Linda Kerber has been invited to be a keynote speaker at the event. Watch the KCW newsletter and website for more information in the coming months.

Name Our Newsletter

Change is good! The Kentucky Commission on Women is moving again and is looking for a new image for our newsletter. Everyone is encouraged to become a part of this by entering the "Name Our Newsletter" contest. Send KCW your idea for our newsletter title and if it is chosen, you will receive a grab bag of KCW memorabilia. Address entries to Nicole Morgan, 312 W. Main St., Frankfort, KY 40601 or Nicole.morgan@mail.state.ky.us

Kentucky Women-List is YOUR List Serv

The Kentucky Commission on Women established a list serv (Kentucky Women-List) nearly a year ago. Since its creation, hundreds of women have signed on to the growing network. KCW would like the list serv to be **YOUR** list serv. It is an opportunity for you to share your events and news with women statewide. We envision the list serve becoming a tool through which you can communicate with other subscribers from across the state. Help us publish your stories, events, news, etc... by forwarding email messages to Kentuckywomen@listserv.state.ky.us To subscribe to the list serve, send an email request to: lyris@listserv.state.ky.us with a message "subscribe Kentuckywomen." (KCW will not publish "for profit" messages.)

Check out these recent Reports!!

Balancing the Equation: Where are Women & Girls in Science, Engineering & Technology?- released by the National Council for Research on Women, <http://www.ncrw.org/research/iqsci.htm>

Hardships in America: The Real Story of Working Families- released by the Economic Policy Institute, <http://epinet.org>

First Lady Awarded Highest Federal Honor for Victim Advocacy

U.S. Attorney General Awards First Lady with Victim Advocacy Award



First Lady Judi Patton received the National Crime Victim's Special Leadership Award presented by U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft during an awards ceremony coordinated by the National Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), in Washington D.C.

Each year the Office for Victims of Crime coordinates the federal commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Over 10,000 forms were mailed soliciting nominations for the highest victim advocacy award. This year the OVC honored two individuals with the Special Leadership Awards; First Lady Judi Patton was among the two selected candidates. Both recipients were chosen based on their innovation, commitment, selfless efforts, and for their notable work to improve victims' rights and services on behalf of crime victims.

"I was overwhelmed by the honor of this award. I am grateful to the women and children of Kentucky who inspire my work, and will be accepting the award on their behalf," said Mrs. Patton.

"It is such a fulfilling experience to see the nation learn what Kentucky has known for five years about the gift this

First Lady gives to those she cares about. Today she has made me a proud Governor and a proud husband," Governor Patton said in response to his wife's award.

More than 200 crime victims, victim advocates, national criminal justice and victim advocacy organizations, Department of Justice employees, various Federal agencies, and family members of the award recipients and colleagues attended the ceremony.

Attorney General Ashcroft delivered remarks and presented First Lady Judi Patton with her award.

Mrs. Patton previously received two national awards in 1996 for her work to improve victims' rights and services. The National Association for Missing and Exploited Children recognized her, and she was awarded the Commissioner's Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Governor's Minority Management Trainee Program Launches Web Site

In an effort to increase representation of minority managers in state government a new website, www.diversity.state.ky.us, has been launched to educate and inform state government agencies about the Governor's Minority Management Trainee Program (GMMTP).

Minority employees wanting to gain management experience and promotions to management level jobs can learn and participate in the GMMTP. The program, created by executive order in 1995, is used as a recruitment and professional

development tool, preparing minority employees to enter a competitive workforce.

"The goal of this program is to enable participants to cultivate the skills needed to serve Kentucky's citizens effectively," said Governor Patton. "Through the Governor's Minority Management Trainee Program, we are preparing employees to make successful transitions to management, and continue to serve the needs of our Commonwealth."

Since its beginning, 36 trainees have graduated from the program with the majority receiving promotions. This fall, the third class of 20 participants is expected to complete the program; four have already received promotions. A new class started July 1, 2001.

Various state government agencies lend their support in increasing highly qualified employees. Participants work closely with the Personnel Cabinet in developing portfolios to circulate amongst hiring agencies. The trainees are required to complete Phase One of the Kentucky Certified Public Manager Program offered by the Governmental Services Center, a nationally accredited management development training curriculum. Several trainees have returned to school in receipt of their masters degrees.

"This is one of many efforts to develop qualified managers for tomorrow's future," said Governor Patton.

Participants are selected from the Executive Branch Cabinets, Constitutional Offices and Kentucky State University for each two-year program cycle. For more information about the program, log on to www.diversity.state.ky.us.